IN THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A buffer memory for storing a plurality of digital information blocks generated by a plurality of respective first users in an order established by said first users, wherein:

(a) each of said digital information blocks is receivable by at least one of a plurality of second users;

(b) each of said digital information blocks includes an indicia of the priority one of said users attaches to an associated one of said digital information blocks; and

(c) a select one of said digital information blocks can be elected for receipt by one of said second users responsive to said priority indicia.

2. (original) The buffer memory as recited in claim 1, wherein:
said digital information blocks are electronic medical images; and
said indicia is a bid price offered by said first users to said second users.

3. (previously presented) The buffer memory as recited in claim 1, wherein any one of said first users can freely change a respective indicia of the associated one of said digital information blocks.

4.-8. (canceled)

9. (original) The buffer memory as recited in claim 1, wherein the indicia is an ask price.

10. (previously presented) The buffer memory as recited in claim 9, wherein the ask price is suggested by a respective one of the second users.

11.-28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented) A system for transmitting, storing, retransmitting and receiving a plurality of work order packages, each containing a work order summary having an indicia of the priority attached to one of the work order packages by a respective requester and a work order, the system comprising:

(a) a first computer system including:

i - a first memory storing a first software module containing first operating instructions readable by the first computer system;

ii - an input device for generating at least one of the work order packages and for changing one of the indicia in the respective one of the work order packages generated by the respective requester; and

iii - a first display for monitoring all of the work order packages;

(b) a first communications channel receiving any of the work order packages generated by the first computer system;

(c) a second computer system receiving the at least one of the work order packages from the first communications channel and parsing received work order packages into their respective work order summaries and work orders, the second computer system including:

i - a second memory storing a second software module containing second operating instructions readable by the second computer system;

ii - a first storage memory for storing the work order summaries linked to the respective work orders in a predetermined order based on the indicia in the respective work order packages; and

iii - a second storage memory for storing the respective work orders;

(d) a second communications channel for carrying the respective work order summaries and at least one of the work orders singled out from the summary storage memory and the bulk storage memory, respectively; and

(e) a third computer system for singling out at least one of the respective work orders based on the work order summaries and for receiving the singled out work orders, the third computer comprising:

i - a third memory storing a third software module containing third operation instructions readable by the third computer; and

ii - a second display for displaying any of the work order summaries and the singled out work orders;

(f) wherein the second computer system, under control of the second operating instructions, reorders all of the stored work order summaries responsive to any change in the indicia of the work order packages generated by the respective requester; and

(g) wherein the singling out of the respective work orders provides for selecting a specific one of the respective work orders in response to a user election for receipt.

30. (original) The system as recited in claim 29, wherein the second communications channel comprises:

a low speed communications channel for instructing the second computer system to download and of the work order summaries to the third computer system; and

a high speed communications channel for downloading the selected one of the work orders from the second computer system to the third computer system.

31. (previously presented) The system as recited in claim 29, wherein the third computer system comprises a plurality of third computers, and wherein the first storage memory comprises a first memory queue accessible by all of the third computers and a plurality of second memory queues, each of the second memory queues being accessible by only a selected one of the third computers.

32. (original) The system as recited in claim 31, wherein a one-to-one correspondence between the partitions and a subset of the third computers is established by respective passwords.

33.-34. (canceled)

35. (previously presented) A remote access system for purchasing services, comprising:

(a) a first facility for storing work order packages, each work order package generated by a respective originator and including a work order and an associated work order summary in a remotely accessible data storage device, to thereby provide a remotely accessible work order database comprised of the stored work order packages;

(b) a plurality of second facilities remote from the first facility, but in electronic communication therewith, for providing a pool of participating service providers with access to the work order database; and

(c) means for facilitating interactive bidding by the originators of the work order packages and service providers regarding fees to be charged by the participating service providers for the services requested in the work order packages;

(d) wherein the system is configured in such a manner as to enable any one or more of the service providers to single out and extract a selected one or more of the work orders from the work order database in accordance with selection criteria established by the service providers and the work order package originators;

whereby the system functions as an open electronic marketplace for the distribution of services to the originators.

36.-38. (canceled)

39. (previously presented) A graphic user interface (GUI) instantiated by computer software, the GUI representing a self-organizing marketplace for exchange of a selected type of one of goods and services, comprising digital information blocks generated by a plurality of respective users, wherein:

(a) the digital information blocks are disposed in an order established by all of the users;

(b) each of the digital information blocks is represented in the GUI by graphic indicators;

(c) each of the digital information blocks includes an indicia of priority that one of the users attaches to an associated one of the digital information blocks; and

(d) all of the digital information blocks can be selectively singled out for receipt by at least one of the respective users.

40. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the indicia of priority is a bid price.

41. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the indicia of priority is an ask price.

42. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are characters identifying a respective one of the digital information blocks.

43. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 42, wherein statistical measures regarding the indicia of priority are displayed for all users on the GUI.

44. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 43, wherein at least one of the statistical measures is represented graphically.

45.-47. (canceled)

48. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 43, wherein user-specific statistical measures corresponding to the indicia of priority established by a respective one of the users is presented by the GUI for only that respective one of the users.

49. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein a total number of users viewing the GUI is enumerated and displayed by the GUI.

50. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein a total number of transactions executed over a specified time period is displayed by the GUI.

51. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are hash marks, each hash mark being directly associated to a respective digital information block.

52. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are ordered in queues, each indicator in a queue having the same indicia of priority.

53. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 52, wherein within a given queue, the graphic indicators are ordered according to the time they were received.

54. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 52, wherein within a given queue, the graphic indicators are, in addition, ordered according to additional information contained in the digital information blocks.

55. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are computer links to a sequence of computer instructions.

56. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicator generated by a respective user is "highlighted" when the user opens the GUI.

57. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein:

substantially all of the GUI is visible to all users; and

the GUI presents user-specific information on to the user generating a respective one of the digital information blocks.

58. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are Document Control Numbers.

59. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are file names.

60. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are links to the associated digital information blocks.

61. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are reordered as digital information blocks are added and removed.

62. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the user can change the indicia of priority of the associated digital information block.

63. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the user can remove a respective digital information block.

64. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are computer links to a buffer memory containing the associated digital information block.

65.-69. (canceled)

70. (previously presented) A graphic user interface (GUI) instantiated by computer software, the GUI representing a self-organizing marketplace for exchange of a selected type of one of goods and services between buyers and sellers, comprising digital information blocks generated by a plurality of respective users, wherein:

(a) the GUI employs graphic indicators to represent offers between the buyers and the sellers;

(b) the GUI displays a set of first graphic indicators representing offers to buy, the offers being generated by a plurality of first users, in an order established by the first users, each of the offers having an associated bid price;

(c) the GUI displays a set of second graphic indicators representing offers to sell, the offers being generated by a plurality of second users, in an order established by the second users, each of the offers having an associated ask price; and

(d) the GUI displays the graphic indicators for all offers to buy and sell and is configured to permit all of the users to visualize the marketplace, any buyer to single out any individual offer to sell, and any seller to single out any individual offer to buy.

71. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators correspond to one of the bid price and the ask price.

72. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 71, wherein the graphic indicators further comprise information extracted from the digital information blocks.

73. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 72, wherein the information extracted from the digital information blocks further defines the one of the bid price and the ask price.

74. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the GUI presents statistical information corresponding to at least one of all bid prices and all ask prices.

75. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 74, wherein the statistical information is represented graphically.

76. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 74, wherein the graphically represented statistical information includes a symbol identifying one of the bid price and the ask price for each respective one of the first and the second users.

77. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 76, wherein the GUI displays the graphically represented statistical information and arithmetic calculations based on the statistical information.

78. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 77, wherein a selected one of the arithmetic calculations is presented only to a corresponding one of the first and second users.

79. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the total number of the first and second users viewing the GUI is presented by the GUI.

80. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the total number of transactions executed during a predetermined period time is presented by the GUI.

81. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are hash marks, each hash mark being directly associated to a respective digital information block.

82. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are ordered in queues, each indicator in a queue having the same bid price or ask price.

83. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 77, wherein, within a given one of the queues, the graphic indicators are ordered according to the time they were received.

84. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 77, wherein, within a given one of the queues, the graphic indicators are sorted based on information extracted from the respective digital information blocks.

85. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are computer links to a sequence of computer instructions.

86. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicator generated by a respective one of the first and second users is identified to that user when the GUI is opened.

87. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are Document Control Numbers.

88. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are file names.

89. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are links to the associated digital information blocks.

90. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are reordered as digital information blocks are added and removed.

91. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein one of the first and second users can change the indicia of priority of the associated digital information block.

92. (original) The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein one of the first and second users can remove the associated digital information block.

93. (previously presented) The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are computer links to a buffer memory containing the associated digital information block.

94.-102. (canceled)

103. (currently amended) A ~~buffer memory~~ computer system operated by a first user, the computer system comprising: ~~for storing a plurality of links to respective digital information blocks generated by a plurality of respective second users in an order freely established by the second users, wherein:~~

a buffer memory; and

software adapted to cause the computer system to store a plurality of links to respective digital information blocks, each digital information block is generated by an individual one of a plurality of second users;

wherein each of the links is associated with a single one of the digital information blocks;

~~(a) each of said digital information blocks is receivable by at least one of a plurality of third users;~~

wherein ~~(b)~~ each of the links ~~includes~~ has associated with it a bid amount the ~~an indicia of the priority a~~ respective one of the second users attaches to that link, and wherein each link and its associated bid amount are stored in the buffer memory; ~~an associated one of said digital information blocks; and~~

wherein a third user ~~(c) each of the third users~~ is presented with a ~~link~~ list of links, and wherein the list is ordered by the computer system, responsive to the software and to the bid amounts ~~indicia~~ associated with the links by the respective second users; and ~~stored in the buffer memory and which link list is configured to permit the user to single out any of the links.~~

wherein the list of links is configured to permit a third user to select any one of the links and, by using the selected link, to download, for viewing data contained therein, the digital information block associated with the selected link.

104. (currently amended) The ~~buffer memory~~ computer system as recited in claim 103, wherein ~~each of~~:

the digital information blocks ~~comprises at least~~ each consist of one electronic file controlled by a respective one of the second users; and

~~the indicia comprises a bid price offered by the respective second user, which bid price is payable when one of the third users follows that link to the at least one electronic file.~~

the bid amount associated with a link is payable, by the respective second user, when a third user selects that link to download and view the data within the associated electronic file.

105. (currently amended) The ~~buffer memory~~ computer system as recited in claim 104, wherein [[the]] at least one of the electronic files comprises an electronic medical image.

106. (currently amended) The ~~buffer memory~~ computer system as recited in claim 103, wherein ~~a respective second user can freely change a respective indicia of the link associated one of said digital information blocks~~ the bid amount associated with a link can be freely updated by the respective second user.

107. (currently amended) A storage medium ~~for storing~~ containing computer readable instructions for ~~permitting~~ causing a respective computer operated by a first user to generate a graphical user interface (GUI) providing a listing of N links; ~~electronic information blocks arranged in an order established by all of M second users, the GUI being viewable by at least one of a plurality of third users and the GUI configured to permit any of the third users to single out any of the N electronic information blocks, wherein:~~

~~each of the N electronic information blocks has an associated indicia established by a respective one of M second users; and~~

~~N and M are positive integers greater than 1.~~

wherein each of the links is associated with a single electronic information block;

wherein each of the electronic information blocks and its associated link is generated by an individual one of a plurality of second users;

wherein each of the links has associated with it a bid amount the respective one of the second users attaches to that link, and wherein each link and its associated bid amount are stored in the storage medium of the first user's computer;

wherein a third user is presented with a list of links, and wherein the list is ordered by the first user's computer, responsive to the bid amounts associated with the links by the respective second users;

wherein the list of links is configured to permit a third user to select any one of the links and, by using the selected link, to download, for viewing data contained therein, the electronic information block associated with the selected link; and

wherein N is an integer greater than 1.

108. (currently amended) The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein the ~~GUI permits any one of the third users to retrieve a freely selected one of the N electronic information blocks~~ bid amount associated with a link can be freely updated by the respective second user.

109-111. (canceled)

112. (currently amended) The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein each of the N links is associated with an electronic information ~~blocks comprises~~ block comprising a respective electronic medical image.

113. (currently amended) The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein the ~~indicia assigned by an Mth second user to an Nth electronic information block permits the Mth second user to control the position of the Nth electronic information block relative to the N-1 other electronic information blocks included in the listing provided by the GUI~~ bid amount associated with a link is payable, by the respective second user, when a third user selects that link to download and view the data within the associated electronic file.

114.-124. (canceled)

125. (previously presented) An article of manufacture comprising a computer memory, accessible for writing by each of a plurality of remotely connected first users, and

containing (a) a plurality of digital information blocks received from each of a plurality of the first users, and (b) an indicia of priority attached to each of the digital information blocks by the first user from whom the block was received; said memory further accessible for reading by each of a plurality of remotely connected second users such that a second user may selectively single out and retrieve at least one of the plurality of digital information blocks in response to that second user's evaluation of the associated indicia of priority.

126. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 125 wherein:

(a) the digital information blocks are electronic medical images; and

(b) the indicia is a bid price offered by said first users to the second users in exchange for one of the second users evaluating the images.

127. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 125 wherein the computer memory remains accessible to the first users for overwriting the indicia of priority to change such indicia after they are initially written in the memory.

128.-151. (canceled)